

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response to the outstanding Office Action is submitted in response to the outstanding restriction requirement. By this Response, applicants have elected Group III, claim 18 directed to the apparatus for prosecution.

Applicant has also added new claim 24 dependent on claim 18. This specifies that the thermoplastic adhesive dispenser 42 is adapted to dispense a powder adhesive as disclosed in the application at page 10, line 18. Accordingly, no issues of new matter are presented.

In addition to the election and addition of new claim 24, applicant has made a minor correction in the specification at page 13, line 14 and corrected the drawings to make them consistent with the description. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by these corrections to the drawings.

In view of this amendment, applicants respectfully submit that upon cancellation of the claims not directed to the apparatus, the application is now in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application at an early date with a view towards issuing an immediate Notice of Allowance. If upon review of the application, the Examiner is unable to issue an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney with a view towards resolving any outstanding issues.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

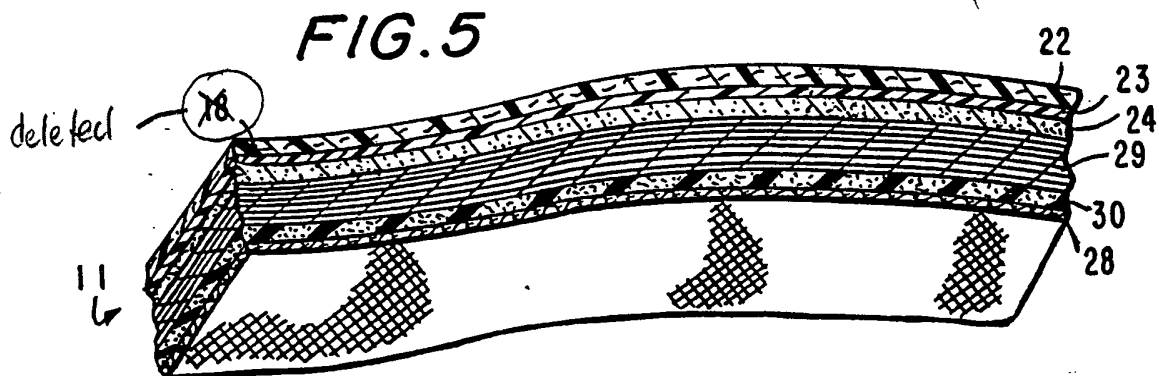
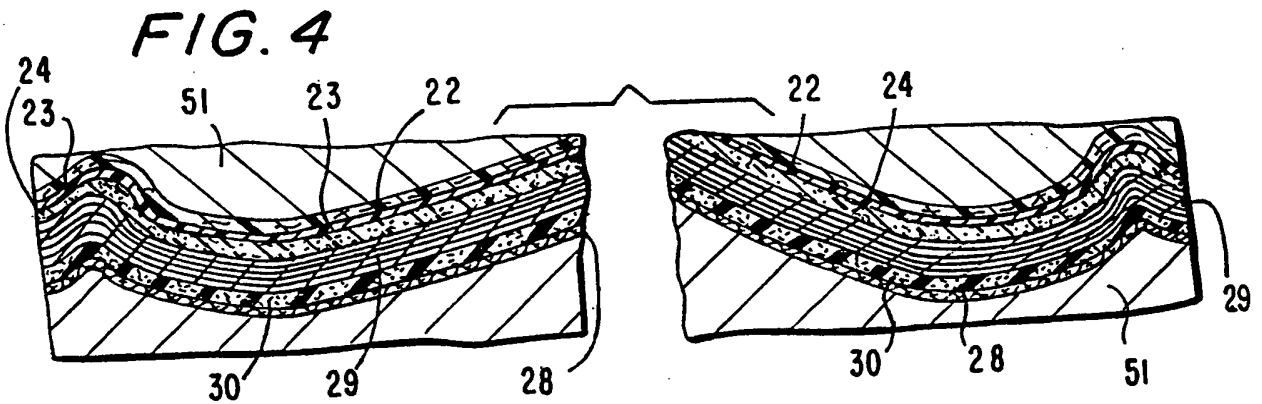
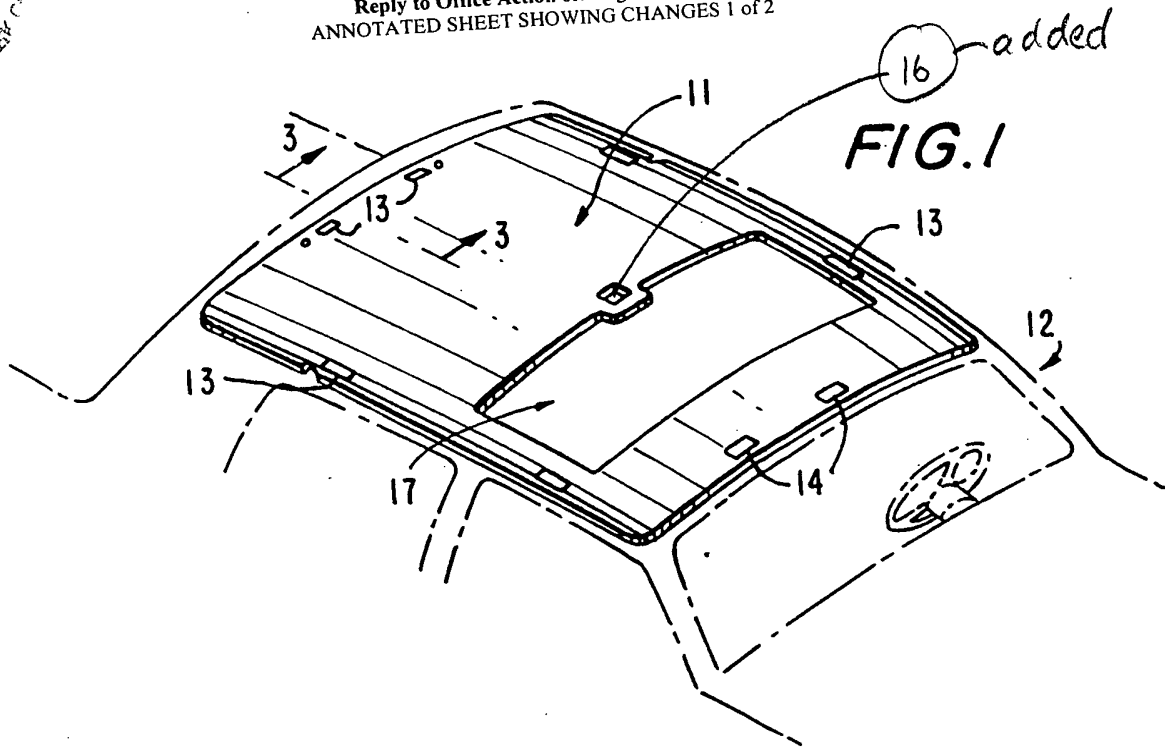
Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Michael I. Wolfson  
Attorney for Applicant  
REED SMITH LLP  
599 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10022-7650  
Tel.: (212) 521-5400  
Fax: (212) 521-5450



Appl. No.: 10/049,386  
Amendment Dated: September 3, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of: August 13, 2003  
ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES 1 of 2





Appl. No.: 10/049,386  
 Amendment Dated: September 3, 2003  
 Reply to Office Action of: August 13, 2003  
 ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES 2 of 2

